

well the remarkable variation in extent and intensity of chest-band that is characteristic of this form.

Saltator coerulescens grandis (Lichtenstein). Lichtenstein's Saltator. Noted infrequently along the highway between Matlapa and the Axtla River. Male, with testes greatly enlarged, taken not far from the Axtla, April 19 (Sutton).

Sporophila torqueola moreletii (Bonaparte). Morelet's Seedeater. Fairly common in open country. A singing male, taken near Tamazunchale April 16, was molting about the face and throat (Sutton).

Volatinia jacarini splendens (Vieillot). Northern Blue-black Grassquit. Common in open pastures not far from Tamazunchale. Flocks of busily feeding birds seen repeatedly from April 23 to the end of our stay. The males indulged in astonishing antics which we assumed to be part of their courtship—quick, complete flip-flops made from dead twigs or from fence wires in the most adroit manner. Males, with testes greatly enlarged, taken April 23 (Sutton).

Arremonops rufivirgatus (Lawrence). Texas Sparrow. Common. Our two specimens (male, April 16; female, April 21) are too large-billed, and too dark both above and below for *A. r. rufivirgatus*. Since they are not big-billed enough nor dark enough on the chest and flanks for *A. r. crassirostris* (Ridgway), they must be called intermediates. The male measures: wing, 65 mm., tail 64; the female: wing, 61, tail, 59.

Atlapetes brunnei-nucha brunnei-nucha (Lafresnaye). Chestnut-capped Atlapetes. Fairly common from four to nine miles up the Moctezuma River from Tamazunchale, on the lower slopes of the mountains. Breeding specimens taken there April 14 to 27.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NEW YORK.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union issued a special number of its official publication, *The Flicker*, in commemoration of the 1940 Wilson Ornithological Club meeting in Minneapolis. An illustration and description of the attractive Calder statue of Alexander Wilson in Philadelphia, an annotated list of the birds named by and for Wilson, and a paper on the different editions of Wilson's American Ornithology make the issue of special interest to collectors of Wilsoniana. In addition there is an historical sketch of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and a summary of 1940 Minnesota nesting records. We understand that the editor, Arnold Erickson of the University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul, has a few extra copies of this issue which may be obtained at twenty-five cents each.

By a recent Act of Congress the Barro Colorado Island Biological Laboratory has been put on a permanent basis with government financial support. The island has been set aside as a wildlife reserve under the name of the "Canal Zone Biological Area" and will be administered by a Board made up of three Cabinet officers, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the president of the National Academy of Science, and three "distinguished biologists." The three biologists on the present board include two ornithologists, Thomas Barbour and Alexander Wetmore.

On December 20 the American Geographical Society presented the Cullum Geographical Medal for 1940 to Robert Cushman Murphy.

Guy Emerson has been elected President of the National Audubon Society (formerly known as the National Association of Audubon Societies).

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